



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

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# News Release

## **ICE REMOVES AUSTRALIAN MAN WHO CAUSED U.S. CAPITOL SECURITY LOCKDOWN**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The man who stood outside the U.S. Capitol with two black suitcases and caused a security incident until U.S. Capitol Police SWAT officers subdued him has been expelled from the United States today by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Less than one week after he arrived in the United States, ICE ensured Wen Hao Zhao was escorted to Australia, his country of citizenship, and turned over to officials there.

On Monday, the U.S. Capitol went into a security lockdown and tourists and employees were evacuated from the immediate area when Zhao stood outside the west side of the building with two suitcases and requested to see the president. U.S. Capitol Police attempted to communicate with Zhao and end the situation, but he refused to move or to speak. Officers subsequently tackled and arrested him.

Zhao, who was born in China, entered the United States April 8 through Los Angeles International Airport under the United States' Visa Waiver Program, under which citizens of selected countries – including Australia – are allowed to enter the United States using a passport in lieu of a nonimmigrant visa. Zhao's arrest constitutes a violation of the conditions of the visa waiver, so the privilege was revoked and he was expeditiously removed.

"ICE is committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system, and that includes ensuring the terms of the Visa Waiver Program are complied with," said Victor X. Cerda, Acting Director of ICE's Detention and Removal Operations. "The waiver program is a privilege that the U.S. government extends. When that privilege is abused, the waiver can and will be revoked."

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*